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MARKET BOSWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year 1940.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 63,717

Population Census, 1921 23,196

" " 1931 23,544

Estimated Resident Population 1931 ...23,780

" " " 1940 ...23,920

Number of Inhabited Houses 6,306

Rateable Value £89,309

Sum represented by a penny rate .....£356.0.0.

Social Conditions.

The population is partly industrial and partly agrarian the main industries being coal mining, granite quarrying and, to a small extent, hosiery manufacture. These are all situated in the North of the District.

Vital Statistics.

Births, Legitimate	M.197.	F.179.	Total 376
" Illegitimate	M. 5.	F. 6.	Total 11
	202.	185.	387

Stillbirths - 12 legitimate, 1 illegitimate. Total 13.

Birth Rate 15.7

" " for England & Wales 14.6

Deaths ..... M.158. F.163. Total 321.

Crude Death Rate 13.0

Comparative Death Rate 14.1

Death Rate for England and Wales 14.3

Deaths from Puerperal sepsis 1.
From other puerperal causes 1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age
Legitimate - 23. Illegitimate - 1. Total 24

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ... 62

" " " for England & Wales 55

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 43

" " Measles " " 1

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) 3

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..... Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH (Civilians only)

Causes of Death.	Males	Females
All Causes	158	163
Scarlet Fever	-	1
Measles	1	-
Whooping Cough	2	1
Diphtheria	3	4
Influenza	3	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis	8	7
Other Tuberculosis	1	2
Syphilis	-	1
Cancer, malignant disease	22	21
Diabetes	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions	11	17
Heart Disease	33	38
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	1

Bronchitis	10	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	8
Other Respiratory diseases	4	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-
Diarrhoea etc. (under 2 years)	-	-
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	-	1
Other digestive diseases	6	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	5
Congenital Causes	5	4
Puerperal sepsis	-	1
Other maternal causes	-	1
Premature Births	3	2
Suicide	2	-
Road Traffic Accidents	2	-
Other deaths from violence	8	3
All other causes	22	27

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:-

A. 1. Fever:- The Isolation Hospitals are controlled by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals Committee. Patients are sent to such hospitals as have beds available for the disease from which they are suffering. The principal hospital is situated in this District.

A. 2. Small Pox:- There are two hospitals provided for the County as a whole.

B. 1.)
B. 2.) Tuberculosis, Maternity & Children's Hospital.

accomodation are controlled by the County Council and the matter is dealth with comprehensively in the County Report. The County Sanitorium is situated at Markfield in this District.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases:- Motor Ambulances are provided in connection with the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) For non-Infectious Cases & Accident:- None under the District Council. The Leicester Royal Infirmary and other voluntary organisations provide the necessary facilities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:- All under the County Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time official but does not engage in private practice.

The chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also Sanitary Surveyor, devotes the whole of his time to his official duties as also does the additional Sanitary Inspector recently appointed.

Professional Nursing in the Home:- The County Council's Health Visitors visit cases in this District. There are District Nurses in all the larger parishes.

Midwives:- The Supervision of Midwives is vested in the County Council.

Chemical Work:- Analyses of foods and drugs are conducted by the County Analyst. The Medical Officer of Health analyses samples of water.

Legislation in Force:- Bye-laws with respect to New Buildings were adopted for the whole District in 1925.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.	No. of Samples taken for analyses	20	
	No. condemned	6	
Wells.	No. closed	-	
	No. cleansed, repaired etc.	2	
	No. of cases in which Public Supply was substituted for well water	17	(Supplying 91 houses)
	No. of Parishes with a piped water supply from public mains	9	
	No. of Parishes without a piped supply ...	11	

There has been no appreciable shortage of water during the year. Arrangements have been made to have available trailer tanks and tanks in lorries capable of transporting 1000 gallons to supplement local water supplies in an emergency.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No. of cesspools constructed during the year 2

No. of cesspools abolished during the year 1

Total number in district on December 31st 293

SEWAGE DISPOSAL:- A Septic tank and filter have been constructed at Ellistown to deal with the sewage from 60 houses and the proposed Pit-Head Baths.

A Septic tank and filter have also been constructed at the Natsopa Memorial Homes to receive waste from cowsheds and farm worker's cottages.

Extensions have been made to the existing sewage scheme at the R.A.F. Flying School at Desford.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in district on December 31st:-

(1) Privies .....12.....

(2) Pail closets ..3,868..

(3) W.C's .....2,200..

No. of closets converted to the water carriage systems during the year:- (a) Privies .....N I L....

(b) Pails .....90.....

No. of Privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year:- .....38.....

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Under the System of Centralised Collection, service is now being given Weekly to the whole of the Rural District, 6692 Dust Bins and 3868 Pail Closets being emptied each week.

A.R.P. and Evacuation have strained the Sanitary Services to their limit although a regular Weekly collection of night soil has been maintained. At times, however, the strain necessitated a less frequent collection of ashes and salvage.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total No. of complaints received ... 150

Total No. of Defects or Nuisances discovered 96

Nature of Inspections:-

	Inspections	Revisits
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	626	62
Tents, Vans, etc.	2	1
Slaughter Houses	196	8
Food Premises	6	2
Dairies and Cowsheds	185	97
Offensive Trades	1	-
Animal Keeping	-	-
Workshops etc.	5	-
Shops	4	-
Other Premises	1	-
TOTAL	1,026	170

(7) SHOPS.

Particulars of action taken during year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

	Outstanding from Previous year	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding.31st December
Sanitary convenience	-	-	-	-
Temperature	-	-	-	-
Ventilation	-	-	-	-

(8) CAMPING SITES

No. of sites in area used for camping purposes during year - Nil

(9) REGULATED BUILDINGS.

Regulated Buildings	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Action taken	General Conditions.
Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	10	2	-	FAIR
Canal Boats	-	-	-	-
Offensive trades	1	1	-	FAIR

A number of Caravans have appeared in the district as a result of war conditions. These have been visited in the normal way. Cleanliness and Sanitary conditions are fair.

(10) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken:-

No. of Council Houses infested ..... Nil

No. of other dwelling houses found infested 2

No. of houses disinfested 2

(11) SCHOOLS.

(a) Sanitary conditions ... GOOD

(b) Water supply of Schools ... GOOD

(c) No. of Schools disinfected and Method employed. NONE

(12) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No. in area:- N I L.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	180
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	250
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932	8
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	12
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	25

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	20

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

4. HOUSING ACT. 1936 - PART 1V - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	42
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	42
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	380
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	8
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	16
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	47

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(13) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply:-

COWKEEPERS.

No. on Register	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions			
		Outstanding from previous year	Found During year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on 31st December.
316	95	8	20	22	-

DAIRYMEN OR PURVEYORS OF MILK.
(Other than Cowkeepers)

No. on Register	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions			
		Outstanding from prev-year	Found During year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on 31st December
134	20	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TOTAL CONTRAVENTIONS.

	Outstanding from previous year	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding on December 31st.
Cleansing	-	7	6	1
Structural Alterations	-	6	2	4
Utensils	-	3	3	-
Other	8	4	11	1

MILK SAMPLING.

Class	Total number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Designated	-	-	-
Ordinary	-	-	-

(b) Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in district ... N I L

Private slaughter houses:-

	in Jan 1939	in Dec.1939
No. registered	12	12
No. Licensed	10	10

No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter 56

No. of knacker yards in district ... NIL

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total weight in lbs.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	30	409	Not known
Number inspected	-	-	-	30	142	Not known
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcases condemned		-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	chilled 2	-	-	2	329
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Stalls:-

No. of Inspections	...	...	Nil

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

No. of Inspections	...	....	98

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In connection with the Control of Infectious Disease the outstanding event of the year was the decision of your Council at its meeting on the 12th November to offer free Anti-Diphtheria Immunisation to all the children in the district thus anticipating the instructions of the Ministry of Health expressed in circular 2230 of the 7th December urging that a special effort in this direction should be made and dispensing with the need to obtain special sanction (section 177(1) P.H. Act 1936.)

Your Council was the pioneer authority in this county to practice Diphtheria Prophylaxis (Markfield, March 1937) and it is therefore fitting that you should also be the pioneer authority in offering free Anti-Diphtheria Immunisation to every child in our area.

Your Council's decision followed the very successful immunisation of the children at Newbold Verdon. Several cases of Diphtheria occurred in this village in August followed by an increasing number in September and as the general Sanitary condition, sewerage, water supply was, of all the large villages in the district, the least satisfactory, I had every reason to fear an extensive epedimic. I advised immediate immunisation, your Council accepted my advice and this was completed on the 5th November. Although immunisation during an epedemic is the most unfavourable time for its success, in this instance the result gave definite and conclusive proof of its value. After the final inspection only two cases occurred and both were children whose parents refused consent. Since then nine months have elapsed without a single case occurring in the village.

I might mention that a general systematic immunisation of the children has been in progress during the present year.

Difficulties and delays have been caused by this years staggered school holidays, but at the time of writing some 2,500 children have been treated and I hope that the whole district will be covered before the end of September.

The following cases of Infectious Disease came under observation during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	59	58	7
Scarlet Fever	73	69	1
Pneumonia	27	-	11
Erysipelas	18	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	3	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	19	19	6
Measles	238	1	1
Whooping Cough	47	-	3

In addition to the above the following cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 and under 5 years	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
5 " " 10 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
15 " " 20 "	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	1
20 " " 25 "	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-
25 " " 35 "	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-
35 " " 45 "	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 " " 55 "	-	3	-	-	2	2	-	-
Over 55 years	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
TOTAL	2	15	1	6	8	7	1	2

No action was taken under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor was any action necessary under Sect. 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were examined by the County Bacteriologist:-

Milk Examinations (bact)	166
Throat swabs for diphtheria	136
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	50
Sewage and Water Analyses	2
Blood for Wassermann Test	3
Urine. T.B.etc.	6
Faeces for B. Typhosis	5
Miscellaneous	28
TOTAL	396

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

T.W. GORDON KELLY, M.D., D.P.H. (Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health

Desford,
Near Leicester.
31st July, 1941.